



CELEBRATING FALL 2020 GRADS

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THE RING

NOVEMBER 2020

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



University
of Victoria

SPEED READ

COVID-19

Protocol updates for masks and gatherings

UVic continues to follow the advice and guidance of the provincial health officer (PHO) to protect the health and safety of our campus community. Following recent updates to the advice of the PHO, we are asking students, faculty and staff to wear non-medical masks in public indoor spaces such as hallways, stairways, building entryways and other high-traffic areas. In classrooms, study spaces and office settings, please wear your mask as you enter or exit, and keep your mask on until you are seated. Follow guidelines on avoiding social gatherings and socializing in common spaces, and practice physical distancing in university spaces. uvic.ca/covid

PARKING LOT 10

Island Health COVID-19 testing site

The university is assisting Island Health to provide an additional regional COVID-19 testing site in UVic's parking lot 10, as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The drive-through testing clinic is staffed and managed by Island Health, and open to those with appointments only. Some minor traffic delays may occur on West Campus Way due to vehicles accessing the clinic.



Wilson. PHOTO: ALI IN VICTORIA FOR FLYTOGRAPHER

1,435

UVIC DEGREES,
CERTIFICATES
AND DIPLOMAS
AWARDED IN
FALL 2020

Finding a niche in digital marketing

BY SASHA MILAM

When Megan Wilson, who graduates this month from UVic's Gustavson School of Business, began to imagine starting her own business, the world looked a bit different than it does today. However, her offering—digital marketing for start-ups—is more relevant than ever.

Now that Wilson has finished her BCom degree with a specialization in entrepreneurship, she is continuing to pursue her dream of helping start-ups make their mark with her creative marketing agency, Rose Creative.

For now, it's a part-time passion that she is exploring while gaining more experience in her field. She spends most of her time at Victoria-based start-up Flytographer, as the in-house content creator and marketing professional.

"I have a passion for helping small businesses with female founders grow," says Wilson. "The start-up environment sets my

soul on fire. There is never a dull moment, always 10-plus things on the go at any given time, and so much opportunity to grow."

This realization was nurtured during her two co-op terms. Working first with local start-up DeeBee's Organics, and then with Flytographer, Wilson discovered that start-ups, and marketing specifically, was an area where her aptitude and interests overlapped.

"My experience at these companies, working alongside two very successful female founders, inspired me to network in the community and meet other female founders doing amazing things," she says.

The niche she discovered during these co-op terms, and that she is continuing to explore through Rose Creative Co., focuses on her ability to dip between creativity and the analytical side. A skilled photographer with an eye for brand development, Wilson also enjoys approaching marketing with a strategic, numbers-focused perspective. The start-up world, with its minimal staff-

ing environment and big opportunities, offered the perfect chance to make use of these different skills.

"When I think about what I am excited for while pursuing this venture, it lies in the connections and small business owners that I get the privilege of working with," she says. "With new clients comes a new set of marketing challenges to solve, which I get excited about too. Two jobs are never alike and always present a new challenge, and that's what I love about creating content for brands – especially those with a strong value proposition."

As Wilson points out, what Rose Creative offers is needed now more than ever: many companies have had to shift focus away from their physical storefronts and to a digital interface quickly and unexpectedly. Digital marketing services are crucial.

"My services for clients over the past six months included website photography

SEE WILSON P.5



Gleeson in Mystic Vale. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Shining light on a precious, invisible resource

BY ANNE TOLSON

What's beneath the ground we walk on? Many of us think of soil, rock, sand, and maybe some roots and earthworms. We may not think of water.

Yet more than 99 per cent of the fresh, unfrozen water on earth is located below us, says UVic water researcher Tom Gleeson. Unlike the freshwater above ground, which usually flows quite quickly in lakes, rivers and streams, underground water tends to meander slowly through cracks and crevices, often staying below the surface for years or even centuries. Gleeson says groundwater is the most reliable source of freshwater on the planet—so long as it is sustainably managed.

"Groundwater is the invisible water beneath our

feet and found almost everywhere in the earth," says Gleeson, a hydrologist in the Department of Civil Engineering who leads the UVic's Groundwater Science and Sustainability research group and founded the international Water Underground blog.

Gleeson's far-reaching contributions to groundwater research and sustainability have earned him a prestigious President's Chair—the highest academic honour UVic can bestow on a faculty member. He is the second to receive the award, which was established in 2020 to recognize faculty who have achieved great distinction in research and teaching, and made significant contributions to UVic's Strategic Framework priorities.

SEE GLEESON P.3

Philanthropy Week

Your UVic Philanthropy Week (Nov. 9-15) is a week-long showcase of giving at UVic. Philanthropists donate their time, money or talent every day—and their actions permeate all areas of UVic life. Look for messages highlighting students, staff, faculty, alumni and donors who are giving back—and give a shout out by tagging a UVic donor's name with #UVicGivesBack. We'll add them to our Philanthropy Week highlight roll to share on November 15, National Philanthropy Day.

Bridging divides at the Victoria Forum

In partnership with the Senate of Canada, UVic is bringing together change-makers to understand the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and find solutions. This November, policy makers, industry leaders, community partners, faculty and students will work together via the Victoria Forum to convene evidence-based conversations and actionable solutions to urgent environmental, economic, and social challenges. The event is free and open to faculty, staff and students at UVic. The event takes place Nov. 12-13&19. Register at victoriaforum.ca

Industry and academia connect for quantum computing

BY ANNE TOLSON

Hausi Müller vividly recalls the excitement he felt being part of the computing scene in the early 1970s, when the digital world was starting to explode. The changes it promised seemed like science fiction then.

Fast forward 50 years, and recent advances in quantum computing have got Müller just as excited as he was back then.

"This is an amazing time, it's like being in a giant candy store," says Müller, a UVic professor of computer science. "Quantum computing is a completely new type of computing—a whole new paradigm—and it's given me that same feeling all over again."

Since mid-2019, Müller has worked tirelessly to create and orchestrate the most extensive, high-profile international conference believed ever to have been held on quantum computing.

The first IEEE International Conference on Quantum Computing and Engineering took place in October with 850 industry leaders, researchers, educators and enthusiasts from

around the globe. Two dozen participants from UVic's Faculties of Engineering and Science attended the online event, with several playing organizational roles. UVic has a strong interdisciplinary quantum team consisting of computer scientists, electrical engineers, chemists and physicists, with recent high-profile publications and several collaborations with leading B.C. and international companies.

But why should we care? Why is quantum computing important?

Müller says these are just the sorts of questions people were asking 50 years ago about regular or "classical" computing, which today is woven into almost every aspect of our lives, including communication, entertainment, finance, transportation and health, to name a few.

"There are a lot of problems we cannot sufficiently solve with today's classical computers, even our supercomputers," says Müller. "Quantum computers can potentially make an enormous leap in our power, speed and efficiency so we can address these problems."

What is quantum computing?

The leap Müller describes can be boiled down to the difference between a bit and qubit. Conventional computers work in bits of 1's and 0's. Quantum computers use qubits, which can be 1 or 0 or any combination. They also connect to each other through a uniquely quantum process known as entanglement. The difficulty is that they are fragile and difficult to keep intact. Quantum computers make faster and more powerful calculations by exploring many possible answers to a question simultaneously.

Although quantum computing is still at an early stage, with many hurdles to overcome, government leaders recognize its potential. Canada has been investing in quantum computing for decades and is developing a national strategy.

BC has two world-leading quantum computing companies, D-Wave Systems and IQbit, which have both obtained significant venture capital funding. BC's government announced in 2019 that it will provide \$17 million over five years to establish the new



Müller. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Quantum Algorithms Institute at SFU to bolster the province's growing reputation as a quantum leader. The institute, which will focus on training students and building quantum computing software and algorithms focused on real-world problems, will include post-secondary institutes like UVic and industry partners.

Quantum Week 2020 helped that connection, bringing together top leaders from both industry and academia.

"There has been a real gap between industry and academia in the quantum computing space, so that's what I've concentrated on," says Müller.

Full story: bit.ly/20-qbit

Role-playing brings history lessons into 21st century

BY PHILIP COX

Imagine it's January, 1349. The deadly plague sweeping through Europe has just appeared in Norwich, a bustling English town of 25,000 inhabitants. The local Bishop insists that the illness is caused by sin and calls for daily prayer at the church. Prominent physicians counter that the plague is spread by proximity and filth; the city gates must be closed, surfaces must be cleaned and physical distance must be maintained. Tradesfolk worry about the economic impact of it all and push for a business-as-usual approach. Which faction will have the final say?

This is one of the questions that students of a course being taught online by UVic historian Rachel Hope Cleves must settle for themselves as they use role-play to learn about and navigate the complex social problems created by the spread of the bubonic plague in Medieval England.

Using a combination of technologies like Slack, Zoom and Brightspace to organize and communicate, the students of Cleves' "History to 1750 through Role Play" course are assigned historically-based characters and provided with original source materials that will help inform their decisions as they struggle for control over vital decisions like whether or not to quarantine from the plague.

It's easy to see how the lessons learned in this course resonate today.

"When the pandemic struck, I decided to teach the history of disease as a way of giving historical context

to what we were going through in the present," says Cleves. "Students are fascinated to see which issues arose then as now, such as how to treat the disease medically and whether or not to quarantine and shut down the economy."

The games that Cleves is using are called 'Reacting to the Past' (RTTP), which is an approach to active learning developed at Barnard College, Columbia University and now used in universities and colleges across North America. With close guidance from an instructor, RTTP games prompt students to become more actively involved in their own learning process as they engage with the course materials.

"The character research and strategy component of Reacting to the Past gives us a deeper and richer understanding of what it was actually like to be alive in the past," says third-year History and Theatre student Al Wheeler. "These are real people, just like you and me. They had rich and complex lives and personal motivations that informed their actions. This course leads you to examine these motivations and determine how they influenced their decisions."

Third-year Medieval Studies student Ashley MacInnes says the course "has exceeded my expectations. The games really let you get into character, which has led to some amazing moments in class. If I had to pick only one course to do this entire semester, it would be this one. I've consistently found myself not wanting class to end."

Full story: bit.ly/20-roles

Support with substance

Putting managed alcohol program experience and research into practice

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

When Meaghan Brown graduated from nursing school, she had never heard of managed alcohol programs, or MAPs. But when she started working at a MAP in Ottawa, she immediately loved working in a program where people with severe alcohol dependence are provided with regular doses of alcohol throughout the day, paired with housing and other supports.

"I found this population was such a special population to work with," says Brown, now a nursing PhD candidate at UVic. "Often people in the programs have had really remarkable lives but also lot of challenges. They are such resilient people who can have the most medical and health complexities and the most barriers to accessing harm-reduction services, but are so full of character and life."

Since being accepted to UVic's master's program in nursing, Brown has started working with the Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study (CMAPS), a study of managed alcohol programs across the country led by the UVic-based Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR)

With the onset of COVID-19, interest in MAPs exploded as the need to support people to stay at home and restrictions and closures increased harms for an already vulnerable group.

Brown says that in Victoria, the onset of COVID-19 brought increasing community concerns about the displacement of people from tent cities and other typical shelter and support networks, with the potential of exacerbating alcohol-related harms such as severe withdrawal and 'survival drinking' of mouthwash or rubbing alcohol.

Combined with the large migration of previously unhoused people into hotels, the city's first MAPs were established, ranging from clinical and peer-based models. Locally, some agencies have adopted an outreach-based, scattered-site model where clients are seen by a nurse and provided with supports and alcohol where they live. This aligns with principles of Housing First, but is a new take on the established residential MAP model.

"I think we're learning new ways of doing alcohol harm reduction, knowing that there's a range of models from residential, to scattered, and of course community based peer-led models, which are much more based on the dignity and self-determination of the person and less clinical," says Brown, who spent part of her summer working on a Victoria-based MAP as a nurse—something she didn't think she'd get to do again. "What I've been learning over time is that managed alcohol programs, particularly in my own approach to practice, there's always room for growth. It's always important for me to come back to harm reduction as the centre of our approach and remember that it's ultimately based on the choices and dignity of the person."

Full story: bit.ly/20-substance

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UVic chemist Katherine Elvira participated in a global program to mentor companies through COVID-19. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Mentoring through COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) responded by creating their recovery program, designed to help science and tech companies in the face of the novel coronavirus. UVic chemist Katherine Elvira mentored companies to help them find ways to contribute to recovery in Canada and the rest of the world.

As a mentor, Elvira worked with other select mentors and experts in the field. International mentors—from angel investors, asset managers, large global companies to scientists—helped companies set objectives, develop their business and learn how to communicate their ideas. Elvira describes the program as bridging the gap between academia and industry—a way to bring knowledge and expertise into the real world to help people and communities.

Elvira, the Canada Research Chair in New Materials

and Techniques for Health Applications, is an expert in microfluidics—where chemistry, biomedical science and engineering intersect. On plastic chips the size of a postage stamp, Elvira builds pipes and valves, which allow her to manipulate and control tiny amounts of liquid, and build artificial cells and tissues for drug testing.

Many CDL partner companies are working with microfluidic technology, Elvira explains, and “anything miniaturized—for example, a COVID test—is microfluidics.” One company mentored by Elvira developed a paper-based test for the Zika virus and subsequently pivoted the technology to test for COVID-19. This company shows a lot of promise due to their previous success in testing for viruses, along with the fact that the test could be quick, affordable and accessible. Full story: bit.ly/20-CDL

GLEESON

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Gleeson brings passion to each of these areas, through his extensive research, numerous high-profile publications, many collaborative projects on the international, provincial and local levels, and engaging civil engineering courses aimed at educating future leaders about the importance of water sustainability.

The dangers of overpumping

The greatest threat to the global groundwater supply is pumping for irrigated agriculture, says Gleeson. Excessive pumping can lead to the depletion of rivers, streams and other freshwater sources that are crucial habitats for fish and other wildlife, and have an enormous influence on the health of many ecosystems.

“But because groundwater moves so slowly, the impact from too much pumping may not be seen until years or decades after it starts,” he says. “So, it can be a time bomb.”

To address these issues, Gleeson’s research involves developing new science and engineering approaches and tools to quantify the impact of pumping. He says these approaches must balance environmental concerns with societal needs, such as ensuring a community’s food security and protecting rural livelihoods.

The President’s Chair award means Gleeson will have more time and resources to focus on research and elevate awareness on four key levels.

Four levels of impact

1) On the global level, Gleeson recently led a large initiative called “Global Groundwater Statement,” signed by more than 1,300 scientists and other experts from more than 100 countries as a way to raise awareness of the global importance of groundwater, encourage future international action-oriented initiatives and build momentum towards the 2022 United Nations World Water Day. Currently, he is helping shape a UN report about the state of global groundwater, which will lead up to an international summit on the topic.

2) A few years ago, the BC Government announced its new *Water Sustainability Act* to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh, clean water that meets the needs of the population. “For the first time, this act brings together groundwater regulations and the protection of river and stream flow in BC and therefore salmon habitat,” says Gleeson. He is helping develop interactive online tools that will support the implementation of the new act by showing what happens to aboveground sources of freshwater if a new well is placed in a particular location.

3) At the regional level, Gleeson is working on a project to support the co-governance of water by Cowichan Tribes First Nation and the province. This work includes citizens using an app to gather information that helps improve water management. He is working on a proposal in partnership with the province, Cowichan Tribes

and community organizations, as well as the POLIS Water Sustainability Project, to better understand how the watershed functions and to encourage more community engagement in water management.

4) On campus, Gleeson’s civil engineering colleague Caetano Dorea is creating the UVic Water Sustainability Collective through newly secured funding from the Strategic Framework Impact Fund. Through this initiative, Gleeson will work with the Collective to help bring together water experts from across campus and beyond to explore what could be achieved in water sustainability research through a more concentrated and multi-disciplinary collaboration.

Ultimately, Gleeson wants his works to have a meaningful and lasting impact.

“I love being outside in nature, I care deeply about people and the environment, and I love solution-oriented science,” he says. “These three things led me to this passion for water science and water sustainability and give me the drive to do science and engineering that’s useful for people and the planet.”

Welcome, President Hall



We are excited to welcome Dr. Kevin Hall to Victoria as he begins his term as UVic’s eighth president this month. Chancellor Shelagh Rogers welcomes President Hall and believes that “he will embrace the role of President of UVic with creativity, insight and energy. His values exactly align with those of the university and he has a profound and abiding commitment to the best higher education experience for all. Dr. Hall will build upon our strong foundation with drive and determination, confidence and ambition.” Kevin says that he is “excited to be in Victoria and ready to learn about how we can work together.” He reflects that “UVic has a proud tradition of excellence in education and research and a commitment to developing tomorrow’s leaders, supporting Indigenous faculty, students and staff, and engaging deeply with the communities locally and around the world. These are commitments that I’ve shared personally and throughout my career and I’m looking forward to building on this work together.”

United Way launches online campaign

BY MARINA HADEN, CAMPAIGN ASSISTANT

Though it will look a little different this year, the annual UVic United Way campaign begins this month. UVic has been a proud supporter of United Way for more than 25 years, and United Way has a long history of creating lasting impact in areas of social need in the Greater Victoria area. UVic runs the second largest workplace campaign in Victoria—our support of United Way is critical to their mission of transforming lives.

While we can’t have some of our signature “fun”draising events due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are looking forward to a successful payroll giving campaign and two new online events—an online auction and a trivia competition—in collaboration with Royal Roads University.

This year, directly in response to the pandemic, United Way has narrowed their focus to three key areas of action: isolated seniors, families in need, and mental health and addictions. If you are concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on the community, donating to the UVic campaign or attending an event is a great place to start. Every dollar of your donation stays local, and will help our community rebuild by, for example, providing meals and companionship to a senior, providing counselling to someone struggling with addiction, and a whole host of other community-based initiatives through United Way’s 109 sponsored programs.

“This year, COVID-19 has significantly impacted our family, friends and neighbours, some of whom were already vulnerable,” say campaign co-chairs Michele Parkin and Catherine McGregor. “At UVic, we have a unique opportunity to rise to the occasion and show our care and commitment to each other and our community.”

Payroll donations form the backbone of UVic’s campaign. If you are a UVic faculty or staff member, you can register in less than two minutes to donate from each paycheck—in whatever amount is comfortable for you. This helps United Way provide reliable funding to the organizations they support. Make a payroll donation at pledge.uwgv.ca/uvic.

The campaign is also a wonderful opportunity for UVic to come together, have fun and build community. Show your support for both UVic and United Way by getting a great item at the December online auction or registering a team for the February trivia competition. Watch our website at uvic.ca/unitedway for events details and a chance to win prizes throughout the campaign.

This year is uniquely challenging in so many ways. We all need a little help in different ways. If you are able, please consider making a donation to United Way and showing your local love. uvic.ca/unitedway

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FALL 2020 GRADUATES

EDUCATION

Drawing youth voices into community activism

BY LAUREN FROST

If you've seen or heard about community-based murals and mural workshops in the Greater Victoria community, there's a good chance that Bachelor of Education student Kay Gallivan was involved. A long-time professional muralist and activist, Gallivan has worked with a variety of organizations and community groups including PEERS Victoria, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and several local high schools.

For Gallivan, working with youth in local schools made the choice to move to teaching an easy one. "My heart always feels so full when I'm teaching mural painting workshops—it is inspiring to see people stretch themselves, come together, and create something," she says.

Adaptable program facilitates arts-based teaching practice

When Gallivan first decided to pursue teaching, she did so with the long-term goal of introducing community-based art into high schools. She wasn't expecting to truly start working towards that goal until after graduation, and she certainly wasn't expecting to create a renowned community art exhibit with high school students in her first year of the program.

In the fall of 2019, Gallivan was given access to an abandoned pre-demolition house and had plans to turn it into a community art space. She was

also starting her teacher education program at this time, and was working with students at Esquimalt High School as part of her coursework. The coinciding timing of the two projects, and the willingness of her instructors to adapt her coursework to her unique interests and goals, helped Gallivan to develop a youth-centred approach to transforming the abandoned home.

"I thought it would be cool to use the community art space as an opportunity to have the students share what they were working on with the world," she says. "The students wanted to focus on climate change and mental health, so we decided on the idea of a climate anxiety haunted house."

With its powerful images—some of text scrawled furiously on the walls and others of whimsical monsters symbolizing capitalism, colonialism, and systems of greed and oppression—*Wasteland: Climate Anxiety Haunted House*, the result of her work with the high school students and over 40 local artists, caught the attention of the community and a number of media outlets, including CTV News, in November 2019.

As the threat of climate change continues to grow while its causes remain largely unaddressed on a national and global scale, centering youth voices in the discussion of social and political issues has become an increasingly important endeavour—one that seemed to resonate deeply with the Greater Victoria community. "Seeing



Gallivan working with Reynolds Secondary School students on a mural outside of Rob Fleming's office. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

all the diverse art pieces roll in from the students and other artists, and the public reception, really brought home how much anxiety is felt about the climate and how healing it can be to process difficult feelings together rather than alone," says Gallivan.

Learning to teach during COVID-19

As with all professions, teaching has had to make significant shifts in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Teacher candidates like Gallivan have been dealing with two sides of these educational changes; not only are they, like post-secondary students in

other programs, learning how to learn remotely, they also need to learn how to teach remotely.

But Gallivan is confident that, while education in the pandemic is often not ideal, there will be lasting benefits that come from the local, national, and global community of educators working together to reimagine teaching and learning.

"It is interesting to see how some changes that are being made in schools due to COVID actually have non-COVID-related benefits," says Gallivan. "I'm sure that a lot will be learned from all the innovating that this emergency has required."

Transforming the school system—one mural at a time

Just like her murals, Gallivan's future as a secondary school teacher is bright. She is sure that incorporating art and activism into her teaching practice will lead to impactful learning experiences for both her and her future students. "I've learned that the educational environment of a classroom benefits tremendously when teachers bring their passions into their teaching," she says.

"I am excited to bring more public art into the school system. How is that going to look? Keep watching to find out!"

HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Answering the matriarchal call to lead

BY KATE HILDEBRANDT

Dinner table conversations at Ashley Charleson's house were—and still are—often centred around business and governance issues.

Both parents served several terms with the shíshálh Nation council of Sechelt, BC, one of the first Indigenous nations in Canada to write their own constitution, sanctioned in 1986. Also a leader in economic development, the shíshálh Nation runs several businesses including a forestry company and a shopping centre.

Born and raised in this thriving coastal community, Ashley remains devoted to the place, its people and their indelible ties to her ancestry.

She served a term on council, too, enjoying the experience and building a career—from band office administrative assistant to adult education coordinator to manager of the employment training and post-secondary education department. She is also the former board vice chair for the Indigenous Adult Higher Learning Association.

Little wonder, with that trajectory, that she set her sights on leadership with education as her pathway. UVic's Indigenous Community Development and Governance two-year online diploma program with the School of Public Administration proved to be her next best step.

"I went looking for a program like this," she admits, clear on her intentions for more than 10 years. "When I found UVic had an Indigenous online program, I knew this was what I wanted. I love learning online. I don't want to have to leave my community to get an education. I want to stay here where my support system is."

That support system is husband, Jason, as well as her parents, family and community. She is grateful to all for supporting her throughout her studies.

Interestingly, Ashley chose a UVic faculty and school with a long history in delivering distance education. Faculty and staff worked with chiefs

and councils, traveling to their remote communities with "suitcase courses" more than 45 years ago to bring new learning where it was needed. An early adopter to online education, all schools with the Faculty of Human and Social Development offer comprehensive online degree programs today, many with Indigenous specializations. As a result, UVic has enabled many people to advance their education while working full-time, caring for their families and studying from home.

This diploma program also introduced Ashley to Indigenous women with shared interests from various points across Canada. An all-female cohort evolved after the only male student dropped out. Working full-time, pregnant with her first child, Ashley was engaged and amazed by the relationships that developed through collaborative online learning.

"I learned so much from these strong female leaders just by listening to them talk about how they managed governance in their own communities."

Yet, it was the indigenous-led structure of the program that mattered most. "The instructors, the curriculum, the cohort, it was all Indigenous through and through. You want to talk about honouring the Calls to Action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission? This is the way to do it."

People are waking up through those Calls to Action, says Ashley, where more people are respecting Indigenous people for who they are. "There is a shift happening where educated women are stepping forward. That's what I'm seeing."

She talks of one student from Quebec, passionate about learning and working in her first language. "When she presented in her native tongue," says Ashley, "we were all so inspired."

Instructor Marcia (Dawson) Turner also had a profound impact on Ashley's learning. Marcia has worked as a band manager, administrator,



Ashley Charleson and husband Jason at their 2019 engagement ceremony. PHOTO: JUSTIN SAMSON.

policy person, and is also a graduate of the school, so theirs was a professional bond and a student-teacher relationship. "My time with Marcia was impactful, especially understanding the traditional matriarchal role of women in governance."

"I want to dig deep, learn more and make positive change knowing our ancestors are with us. This system, the way we do things now, is not our way. It was most certainly put upon us. In moving forward, we must look back to our traditional ways and incorporate those teachings into our daily lives."

The determination in her voice is clear, more so as she shares the story of her grandmother, Diane Joe. "She was fluent in our language but that link was broken," says Ashley on why her grandma did not pass the language on to her father.

Many Indigenous parents who survived

residential school raised their children to only speak English to protect and prepare them for a regulated, colonized world.

Even so, Grandma Dee went on to become a teacher with the Sechelt public school district and, in the 1990s, lived to see her traditional She Sháshishálhem language offered as an alternative to French. The language continues to be taught today at Mom Ay Mon, Kinnikinnick and Chatelech schools, the Alternative School and Capilano University.

Next up for Ashley: an online master's degree program. But that will have to wait: mother and father are busy with new daughter Graysen Dee, who arrived one month after Ashley completed her diploma. Now with time to rest and nurture the little one, Ashley contemplates their promising futures with hope more Indigenous people pursue post-secondary education.



HUMANITIES

Cultivating BIPOC community on campus

BY PHILIP COX

It's hard to believe that when she arrived at UVic from Xian, China in 2013 to pursue an MA in English, Amy Tang's biggest challenge was making friends.

Tang, who graduated with her PhD in English this month, is now well-recognized as a researcher, visual artist and community organizer. And she was hired straight from her PhD this summer to a tenure-track position with the department of English at the University of Fraser Valley—an increasingly rare and impressive feat, made all the more notable for occurring at the height of the pandemic, when few employers were hiring at all.

The choices she made, in recognizing and responding to the environment she first found herself in at UVic, have played a defining role in her success.

"At that time, the majority of my cohort was Canadian. Because we had different cultural references and lifestyles, I found it very hard to make small talk and enter into conversations," she says. "It felt like people were reluctant to talk with someone with a heavy accent or who wasn't from their culture."

Tang began to notice that other members of her program were having experiences similar to her own. "I felt like all the international students, and especially students of colour, were marginalized. They sort of disappeared after class, having fewer coffees or dinners with friends from the department. They were never there because they didn't feel comfortable going, because they weren't really friends. Do you know what I mean?"

The turning point in Tang's experience came during her second year, in a course with her future PhD supervisor Stephen Ross (who is this year's winner of the Reach Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision and Mentorship). "Stephen Ross really opened up dialogue among us students and broke down structural barriers that existed outside of the classroom. I felt more able to participate in the class."

By the time she started her PhD two years later, she had a broad, supportive network on campus and was thriving academically. "Without such support, I would not be where I am today. During my time at UVic, all the mentors, colleagues and friends I met were exceptionally smart, professional and kind," Tang says. "The most important thing I learned from Dr. Ross is that academia is so much more than scholarship."

The support and kindness that Tang received inspired her to pay it forward by supporting other students in a position similar to her own. Along with another English PhD student, Alana Sayers, she then co-founded the BIPOC English Grad Student Support Group, which aims to combat systemic racism at UVic and build long-term community for Black, Indigenous and other English graduate students of colour at the university through social events and regular online meetings.

"I really wanted to make a change—even a small change," Tang explains. "Alana and I wanted to start with something pretty small, like meeting to have a coffee or just saying 'hi.' I think those daily experiences, those small conversations, make a big difference for people. It makes them feel more comfortable and welcome."

Tang had already found success



Tang. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

with this model in another group that she co-founded a year earlier with English PhD student Kevin Tunnicliffe, The Mod Squad. Open to students from all programs and disciplines, the group has met regularly since 2018 to talk about modernist literature and poetry outside of disciplinary constraints, breaking down barriers to interpersonal and intellectual exchange by building communities focused on commonality and the sharing of personal experiences.

Several faculty members have noted that they consider themselves lucky to have worked with her during her time on campus, citing her wide-reaching intelligence, good humour and generosity of spirit.

"Amy brought a real energy to the Faculty of Humanities and helped expand its possibilities," says Ross. "Her advocacy on behalf of BIPOC students and faculty came as part of a matched pair with her formidable intellect and remarkable work ethic. She both modeled for other students how to be successful and nudged our department as a whole to be better. We were very lucky to have her."



Conradi. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

FINE ARTS

Crafting a literary identity

Writing grad Kai Conradi explores words, life and how they fit together

BY JOHN THRELFALL

While it's not unusual for a Department of Writing student to get their first publishing credit while still an undergraduate, it is rare when their story gains national attention and a shot at a \$10,000 prize. But as an emerging poet and short-story writer, there's no question Kai Conradi offers a fresh voice to Canada's literary scene.

Despite having just completed their degree, Conradi's work has already appeared in *The Malahat Review*, *Poetry*, *Grain* and *PRISM* magazines, and has been nominated for the Journey Prize, the Pushcart Prize and the National Magazine Awards. Their first published story—"Every True Artist", which also appeared in *Best Canadian Stories 2019*—earned them national recognition and a trip to a Toronto literary gala as one of three shortlisted finalists (all UVic alumni) in the 2019 Journey Prize.

"I was really nervous, mostly because if you win, you have to give a speech—and I really didn't want to give a speech," laughs Conradi about their shortlist experience. "It was weird to step into that Toronto literary world—it was very fancy and I very felt out of place; it's a different writing atmosphere out there." When asked if any literary big-wigs slipped them a card, Conradi just chuckles: "Everyone said that was going to happen to me, but then it didn't happen at all . . . and that's fine."

Toronto's literary scene would be different indeed for a kid raised

in small-town Cumberland, who then moved to Comox as a teenager before coming to UVic to pursue their writing degree. "Working on a line level is what excites me the most—words, and how they fit together," says Conradi of their writing process. "In that sense, I feel really excited by poetry, but I like that it can be applied to fiction as well. My work tends to be quite narrative, so there's a lot of crossover."

As a queer and trans writer, Conradi admits to struggling with issues of representation . . . and the obligations that come with it. "It seems like there are a lot more diverse voices writing about identity than ever before, which excites me—I think about what I wish I'd been reading when I was younger, so it's important for me to be one of those voices for other people."

But that doesn't mean Conradi only wants to be known for their gender identity. "It's overwhelming at times—especially when it comes to writing about trans people or queer people—because there's not that much out there, so I feel a lot of responsibility to get it right. It's important to be open and visible to a certain extent . . . but it's also important to write about all the things I care about, and not just one facet of my personality."

Already enrolled in writing's MFA program with a poetry focus, Conradi's first poetry chapbook is due out this fall: *Notes from the Ranch* is being published by Vancouver-based Rahila's Ghost press, which is run by fellow writing alum Mallory Tater.

Practice, praise, publication, prizes, parties and poetry: it seems Conradi made the right decision in applying to the writing department. "I do feel quite lucky I ended up here," they conclude.

SOCIAL SCIENCES



Zubiria Perez. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Grizzly bear conservation supported by computing

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

Alejandra Zubiria Perez, who graduates this month with a master's in geography, focused her UVic studies on grizzly bear behavior. She was born and raised in Mexico City, one of most densely populated cities in the world. Although she wasn't exposed to environmentalism or wildlife management growing up, her time studying at BC universities has given her a deep love for animal conservation.

In 2011, Zubiria Perez moved to Vancouver to begin an undergraduate degree at UBC. She visited Victoria often during her undergraduate degree and feel in love with the smaller city and campus that offered a more personalized experience along with more opportunities for involvement and growth.

"Throughout my master's, I found it extremely helpful and motivating to talk to other graduate students and faculty conducting research," says

Zubiria Perez.

"It was inspiring to see the impact of some of the research being produced in our university and it made me want to become even more involved in the community and my work," she adds.

Zubiria Perez's research brings together aspects of computer sciences, machine learning and ecology in order to study grizzly bear behavior. She developed a model that could then be used to inform management policies and contributed to current pressing issues related to bear conservation.

"I had always wanted to study large carnivores and I was particularly struck by the passion of some researchers," says Zubiria Perez. "I was lucky, and with the support of my supervisor (Chris Bone, UVic geography) and a few industry partners, it all came together for me," she adds.

Zubiria Perez loved being part of a new research lab in geography—SUR-REAL lab—and being part of all the

hurdles and success. She shared frustrations, laughs and lots of coffee with so many amazing people who were an incredible support system.

"Alejandra is one of the best students I have had the pleasure of working with—not only did she teach me a lot about grizzly bears, but I learned so much from her about hard work and perseverance," says Bone. "She is destined for a very bright future."

When Zubiria Perez is not doing research, she's often out exploring the outdoors—including her passion for whitewater kayaking, which began with the UVic Kayak Club. That challenging physical sport, she says, takes up most of her free time.

Zubiria Perez is looking forward to starting her PhD at SUNY, another leading institution in conservation and environmental research, where she will continue her research in wildlife conservation. Her project on wolf population dynamics in the Great Lakes region begins in January 2021.

WILSON CONTINUED FROM P. 1

and customizing product listings on the online storefront. As we shift to working remotely and focusing on doing business online, digital marketing and content creation services are only going to increase in demand."

Learning to market her own services as a contractor presents its own challenge, and Wilson admits this is more daunting in some ways than marketing products developed by others. Striking a balance between her true excitement to help start-ups grow, and setting a fair price point for this help, will be a process of discovery for the young entrepreneur. "It's something I'm sure anyone working in the consulting or creative fields can relate to," she says.

Challenges notwithstanding, she is

excited to be exploring her opportunities and interests as a contractor. She credits the Gustavson entrepreneurship faculty with giving her the push needed to get started. Students are required to create a business idea in class during their entrepreneurship specialization term, which they then use as a practical example for all the concepts they are learning. For Wilson, this fostered the courage to think of her business as a real possibility.

She also recognizes the important role played by her previous co-op employers, Dionne Baker, founder of DeeBee's Organics and Nicole Smith, founder of Flytographer.

"They gave me the opportunity to learn marketing first hand, and let me find my own wings," she says.

2020 REACH AWARDS

RECOGNIZING RESEARCH & TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The Reach Awards honour the extraordinary teachers and researchers who lead the way in dynamic learning and make a vital impact at UVic, in the classroom and beyond.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Leadership



Wyatt. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Victoria Wyatt, Art History and Visual Studies

Victoria Wyatt's teaching and research focuses on the creativity and resilience of North American Indigenous artists in response to colonization. She is recognized with UVic's highest teaching award because of her commitment to foster inclusive and culturally aware teaching practices, emphasizing non-linear thinking and Indigenous ways of knowing. Her courses include adapted lesson plans, flexible due dates and meets a wide range of learning needs. Her commitment to teaching is also reflected in her leadership roles within the faculty, the university and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. A passionate advocate for innovative pedagogy locally and nationally, Wyatt provides invaluable mentorship to colleagues at all career stages.

Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching



Calce. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Stephanie Calce, Anthropology

Stephanie Calce combines research and community-driven expertise across her work at UVic. In addition to her nine years teaching biological anthropology, she completed the Forensic Anthropology Visiting Scientist Internship at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manhattan, New York City. Having worked as an intern and consultant for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police and Saanich Police Department, Calce brings a real-world immediacy to her teaching. She created an annual "Forensic Anthropology Day," where high school students and young aspiring anthropologists survey UVic's campus for evidence in a simulated missing-persons case, and develops field schools that provide students hands-on experience of forensic excavation and field recovery techniques.

Award for Excellence in Teaching for Experiential Learning



Damian. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Daniela Damian, Computer Science

Daniela Damian is a critically reflective educator and leader in software engineering, who has created innovative cross-cultural experiential learning practices in her 18 years at UVic. With a newly established Software Engineering Global interAction Laboratory (SEGAL), Damian pairs students in collaborative and globally distributed teams to design solutions for local and international companies. She prepares students for the workforce by creating an authentic environment that students find "challenging, intense, memorable and rewarding." She mentors students and models professionalism, and uses active feedback in her evaluations to mirror industry reality on the ground to prepare students for lifelong success.

Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research-Enriched Teaching



Gupta. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Rishi Gupta, Civil Engineering

Rishi Gupta is a cutting-edge researcher and associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. Gupta is known for his effectiveness in integrating his robust research and teaching portfolios. Within his first two years at UVic, he designed several courses, integrating real-world research from his professional experiences. Gupta is a Fellow of Engineers Canada, actively involved in the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering, and has won numerous awards including UVic's Faculty of Engineering Teaching Excellence Award and the province-wide President's Teaching Award of Excellence from Engineers and Geoscientists BC. His thoughtful curriculum design includes active learning, object-based learning, and living labs.

Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision and Mentorship



Ross. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Stephen Ross, English

An internationally recognized leader in the field of modernist studies, Stephen Ross has mentored over 50 graduate and post-doctoral students. He has the ability to engage with students in all facets and stages of their careers. As shown through his weekly "Write Club," Ross finds every opportunity to engage students, including conferences and publishing opportunities. "Nobody has contributed more time, energy and generosity of spirit to my intellectual and professional development," shares a student. He enacts his role as a supervisor and mentor by supporting the whole person, creating meaningful paths to achievement and a community for his students.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARDS

David H. Turpin Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research



Koop. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Ben Koop, Biology

Ben Koop has shown the world how genes and genomes work, adapt and evolve. He began by developing technologies for sequencing genes, and applied them to mammals so he could learn more about human disease. He then made the leap to fish, where he is internationally known for his work in fish genomics as a major contributor in the sequencing of Atlantic and multiple Pacific salmon genomes. His discoveries and collaborative style have affected scientific careers, aquaculture, conservation and economies in BC and around the world. Whether with sea lice or bats, fruit flies or humans, Koop's revolutionary work elegantly translates his own fundamental discovery-based research to real-world applications in clinical medicine, aquaculture and conservation biology.

"Our Reach Awards celebrate teaching and research excellence at the University of Victoria. This year's honourees are all exceptional faculty and graduate students, who are dedicated to the highest standards of teaching, research and creative activity." —UVic President Jamie Cassels, Oct. 2020

Silver Medal for Excellence in Research



Ellison. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Sara Ellison, Physics and Astronomy

For 20 years, Sara Ellison’s discoveries have recalibrated scientific knowledge, making her a global leader in defining galaxies. She began her stellar career by using unique combinations of technologies to identify the elements that lie within and between galaxies, later studying how galaxies merge and evolve. Ellison’s peers recognize her “tremendous diversity” in observational work and her exemplary publication record, while her outstanding research contributions have garnered substantial grants, awards and fellowships. In both astronomy and astrophysics, she pioneered the techniques that provide new insights and answers to the ancient question that we ask when we gaze into the sky: what’s out there?

Award for Excellence in Knowledge Mobilization



Stahl. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Ann Stahl, Anthropology

Ann Stahl is an archaeologist who doesn’t live in the past. Instead, she uses a vast collection of historic and cultural resources amassed through a decades-long research project to help communities and individuals in Ghana move into the future. Working together with Ghanaians to record, preserve and build upon their local heritage, Stahl and colleagues have embraced digital technologies to develop the research and training project Improving African Futures Using Lessons from the Past. This ambitious project, writes one supporter, is “an irreplaceable treasure trove” of culture, language and tradition that she shares, animates and preserves. It is now embedded in cultural activities and the Ghanaian school curriculum, connecting modern students with traditional knowledge.

Award for Excellence in Research Partnerships

Stephanie Willerth, Mechanical Engineering, and Tamer Mohamed, Aspect Biosystems

UVic biomedical engineer Stephanie Willerth, described by colleagues as a “star researcher” who pushes boundaries, and Tamer Mohamed, CEO of Aspect Biosystems, met four years ago and immediately saw the potential for a collaboration. Together, they formed the first group in the world to combine Aspect’s microfluidic 3D bioprinting platform with Willerth’s biomedical expertise in innovative bioinks. Since then, they’ve engineered human stem cells to create healthy and diseased nerve cells that already are proving uniquely useful for testing drugs against Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and brain cancer. By speeding up the process of identifying and testing medications, Willerth’s innovative partnership with Aspect ensures that patients will be able to receive effective health care much sooner than they do now. This collaborative work is exemplary of a partnership that combines and advances university research with engineering applications to benefit health care, families and individuals.



Willerth. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Mohamed. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ANDY FARQUHARSON TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Pamela Fraser, French

Pamela Fraser is passionate and committed to keeping the French language alive in Canada. As expressed in her students’ evaluations, the learning environment that Fraser creates in her classroom goes beyond grammar or vocabulary. The immersion begins when students enter the classroom greeted by Francophone music videos, and continues through multiple interactive activities. Her energy is infectious and her approach to teaching is inclusive and non-judgemental.



Fraser. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Joseph Horan, Mathematics and Statistics

Joseph Horan “combines an absolute command of the course material with an unwavering dedication to self-improvement as an educator,” explain his colleagues. Students describe Horan as incredibly approachable—an important quality both in a bustling mathematics assistance centre and in classroom settings. What sets Horan apart is how he can skillfully meet students where they are in order to encourage their confidence and autonomy solving problems in mathematics and statistics.



Horan. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Osman Uluocak, Mechanical Engineering

Osman Uluocak has an extraordinary ability to help students create strong and meaningful connections to understanding how thermodynamics, energy conversion, heat transfer and design is applicable to their everyday lives. His highly rated student evaluations are a direct result of the responsiveness, encouragement and passion he shares with his students. His goal is to make sure students are curious and excited by the lessons he teaches by sharing his research experiences in his tutorials to enrich course content.



Uluocak. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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Textiles in focus at Legacy's interrupted exhibition

BY TARA SHARPE

Museums, galleries and other cultural institutions around the world are yet again facing lockdown with the second wave of COVID-19, while others continue to contend with low visitor numbers. The public spaces of Uvic Legacy Art Galleries were no different, falling nearly silent in the first weeks of the pandemic. On March 18, the doors closed to the public—including on an exhibition of textiles, an art form that has frequently been marginalized and underappreciated.

Woven, Embroidered and Stitched in Tradition: Women's Textile Labour in 20th Century Asia, showcasing a dazzling array of heritage textiles from the Uvic art collection, opened Feb. 8 at Legacy Maltwood. The luxury textiles and garments were produced by women throughout Asia between the late 19th century and present day, and were augmented with more modern adaptations on loan from private collections, as well as related material from Uvic's Special Collections.

Exquisitely crafted in China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, India and Bangladesh, these pieces shed light on women's roles as makers, consumers and connoisseurs during the last 150 years—a time involving monumental global shifts but also the devaluing of women's skilled textile labour.

Graduate student Claire Aitken (art history and visual studies) curated the exhibition under the supervision of Melia Belli Bose (also of art history and visual studies), with the assistance of student researcher Yorika Terada; Japanese culture and kimono consultant Hitomi Hama; and Caroline Riedel, Legacy's curator of collections.

The exhibition was scheduled to be part of a three-day symposium which, due to COVID, didn't happen. "It was a really unique project with many collaborators," adds Riedel and it is unlikely the same pieces will be shown together again by Legacy in the near future.

Legacy staff have been hard at work devising ways to continue to provide safe, welcoming and inspiring opportunities to engage artistic curiosity and learn more about Canadian, Indigenous and international historic and contemporary art.

Two exhibitions, *TUKTUUYAQTUUQ (Caribou Crossing)* and *To Fish as Formerly: A Story of Straits Salish Resurgence*, opened June 17 at Legacy Downtown and run through Nov. 14 and 21 respectively.



Aitken places an Ikat textile from Indonesia (in background: bride's coat from China; foreground: beaded slippers from Malaysia). PHOTO: LEON FEI

To Fish as Formerly: A Story of Straits Salish Resurgence, opened June 17 at Legacy Downtown and run through Nov. 14 and 21 respectively.

In *TUKTUUYAQTUUQ*, Uvic alumni Maureen Gruben works with multiple facets of the tuktu/caribou. Tuktuuyaqtuuq is the Inuvialuktun name of Gruben's home on the Arctic coast. The tuktu are integral to Inuvialuit life; they provide food, clothes, tools and stories. In her careful attention to life-sustaining physical elements, Gruben is also tracing the caribou's vast immaterial presence in her culture.

To Fish as Formerly tells the story of the SXOLE (the Reef Net Fishery) through contemporary art, traditional knowledge and historical documentation. Curated by child and youth care professor XEMFOLTW Nicholas Claxton

and history graduate student Katie Hughes, it focuses on the efforts of generations of WSÁNEĆ people who are revitalizing the belief systems, spirituality, knowledge and practices inherent to the SXOLE.

This fall marks the 10-year anniversary of the opening of First Peoples House, including a new exhibition organized by Legacy's Young Canada Works intern Melissa Granley (Métis) along with Coast Salish artist lessLIE. For Time Immemorial presents works by established and emerging artists.

And an upcoming exhibition, *Life Stories*, opens Dec. 2 at Legacy Downtown. Legacy staff along with artistic collaborators have also developed online opportunities for people to engage with art and artists.

See online article for more: bit.ly/20-textiles



Detail of a wall hanging, "Gypsy Wharf-Sojan Badia Ghat," by artisans in Bangladesh

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